

## Council on Aging Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021

A meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 10:00am via Zoom with the following member present: Richard McCarthy, Linda Winslow, Jim Pelligrene, Janet Fasanello, Mary Jones, and Dorothy Smith. Also in attendance was the COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Assistant Director Debbie Fradkin and COA Outreach Worker Laurel St. Pierre, "Sally" via iPad and "Mary" via iPhone and Nancy Aicardi. Absent was member Josette Burke.

10:05 AM: Meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Richard McCarthy.

Board Chair Richard McCarthy called for a review of the previous month's minutes. No corrections were noted and the Board made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim moved and Linda accepted. It was a unanimous vote.

Introductions of the Board were made for the benefit of Nancy Aicardi as this was her first Meeting as Secretary.

COA Director Kerri McManama provided a slide presentation on statistics and programming at the Center in the month of January as well as statistics for the month of February to date.

The Presentation covered:

- A review of the January and current statistic for outreach and programming. The Outreach numbers continue to increase exponentially. The total Outreach for January was 830, 815 client and 52 service. The two biggest pieces were Covid calls at 262 and AARP tax services at 52.
- Medical rides still continue with Covid restrictions in place.
- Through February 24<sup>th</sup>, there are already **1130** items of Outreach for Covid.
- For January and February the Center is already over ½ the total of Outreach (2500) of all of 2019 when the Center opened (a little under 5000).
- Another issue is many of the Outreach calls are for people, including couples, which have never utilized the Center previously. This necessitates much extra work to get necessary personal information to set these people up in the computer. Emails are very important also to add to the Email Blast list to provide Covid information. There were 35 new people in January and so far 203 new people in February.
- The Email Blast list has gone from a count of 200 to 800.

There were two questions regarding the Food Pantry which Kerri briefly answered saying more detail would be given during the discussion of the Food Pantry itself. Kerri mentioned that for each registration, two phone calls are involved: one when the call comes in to register, and one when the Center calls the registrant to remind them of the delivery. In addition to volunteer drivers, the two buses service the housing sites as well as one additional route in Town. Numbers are down somewhat, and the Center believes this is due to people going to the high school weekly for pick up.

An update was given on Covid-19 immunizations:

- Eligibility at this point covers Phase I and priority groups 1 and 2 of Phase II.
- The Center performed 4 Clinics over two weeks before the State decided no more first dose vaccines to local town Board of Healths. Big Y will also no longer receive first dose vaccines. This is unfortunate as it is easier getting seniors to the Center or Big Y than to the mass vaccine sites such as Gillette, especially for those who have mobility issues. The two local sites other than Gillette are the CVS in Medfield and Dedham.
- The Center has booked 380 appointments through phone calls to date.
- The Center needs to find new solutions for getting people to the mass vaccine sites.
- As of February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Council of Aging has **1729 RECORDED** Outreach calls just for Covid.
- Sherri and Kerri spent all morning today in the Waiting Room on the Covid Registration Site, to only be able to book ONE appointment

- Kerri is asking the Board to be vocal with local, State and Federal representatives about the challenges that not only Walpole, but other Council on Aging facilities are facing.

**Food Pantry Update:**

- The next delivery date is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Usage has decreased this winter. The average in November and December was 243 per month. The average in January and February was 144 per month. The total registered to date for February is only 49. Kerri believes that this is due to people being so concentrated on Covid vaccinations that they are forgetting other things.
- The COA Team continues to register people for deliveries, plan routes, organize volunteer drives and confirm each delivery.
- Due to Covid restrictions, the Walpole Food Pantry is not adding new volunteers at this time.

**VSO Update:**

- The interview process is continuing with the Town. The VSO is an employee of the Town of Walpole, but Medfield will pay a portion of the salary as the VSO will cover both towns.
- There are two volunteers at the Center to help with the calls coming in for veteran services.
- The COA continues to work with the Town and Chapter 115 recipients to complete the recertification process through June 2021

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM via Zoom Teleconference.**

Richard McCarthy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 AM. Linda seconded and the vote was unanimous.